

DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, February 18, 2004

DOE weekly updates on Bird Flu, Human Influenza, West Nile Virus, or other illnesses and medical issues will continue as appropriate or as requested. The following information is current as of Thursday, February 18, 2004, 0700 hours, EST. Information presented is routinely taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <http://www.cdc.gov/>, The World Health Organization (WHO), <http://www.who.int/en/>, the Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System site, (DoD-GEIS)-
<http://www.geis.ha.osd.mil/>, and other creditable sources.

Recent News

Report: Aspirin May Lower Risk of Hodgkin's - Wed 18Feb2004, *By Lauran Neergaard*, The Associated Press, WASHINGTON --Scientists have found a hint that regular aspirin use might lower the risk of Hodgkin's disease, but more research is needed to prove it ...
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A50146-2004Feb18.html>.

Bird Flu Claims More Victims, U.N. Sounds Warning --Wed 18Feb 2004, *By Nopporn Wong-Anan*, BANGKOK (Reuters) - Asia's human bird flu toll rose to 22 Wednesday as Thailand and Vietnam reported deaths from the disease ravaging poultry flocks across the region and the WHO pleaded with governments not to rush to declare it under control. "This virus is still spreading no matter what some authorities are saying about it being under control. It is spreading on a daily basis," World Health Organization (WHO) Manila-based spokesman Peter Cordingley told Reuters ...
<http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=4382714§ion=news>.

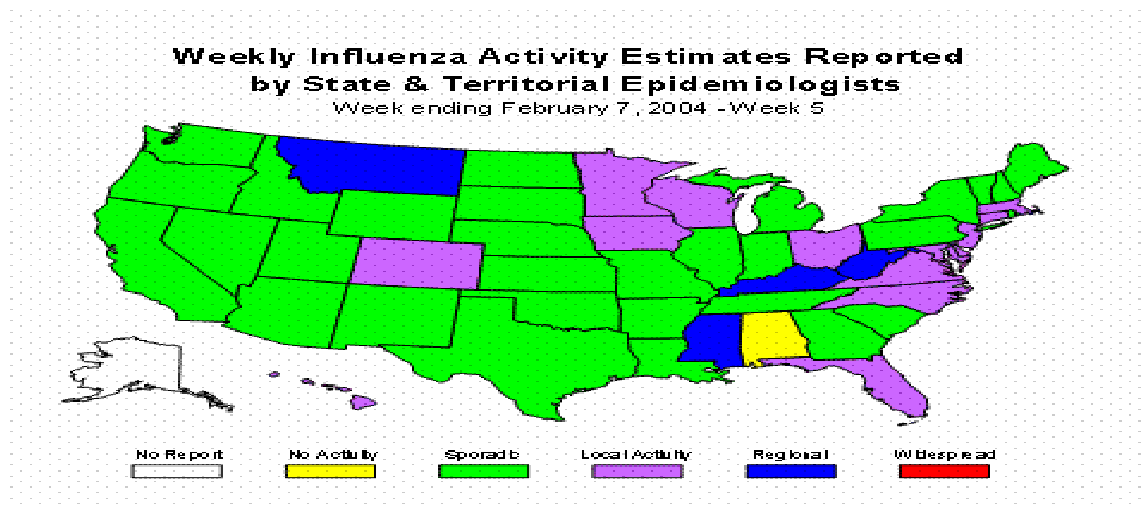
Stem Cells Found In Adults May Repair Nerves – 18Feb2004, SCIENCE DAILY --It used to be considered dogma that a nerve, once injured, could never be repaired. Now, researchers have learned that some nerves, even nerves in parts of the brain, can regenerate or be replaced ... according to a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Much of this research focuses on stem cells, one of several types of general cells that can give rise to specialized cells, like neurons. It was once thought that human stem cells were only found in embryos, and in bone marrow, where they produce blood cells. But stem cells are also being found in adults, including the brain and the eye ...
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/02/040218074335.htm>.

Study Shows Link Between Antibiotic Use And Increased Risk Of Breast Cancer – 17Feb2004, SCIENCE DAILY --A study published today in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* provides evidence that use of antibiotics is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. The authors ... concluded that the more antibiotics the women in the study used, the higher their risk of breast cancer. The results of this study do not mean that antibiotics cause breast cancer. "These results only show that there is an association between the two," explained co-author Stephen H. Taplin, M.D., of NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences and formerly of the GHC. "More studies must be conducted to determine whether there is indeed a direct cause-and-effect relationship." ... <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/02/040217072307.htm>.

WHO 'BIRD' Flu Travel Advice - WHO does not at present recommend any restrictions on travel to any country currently experiencing outbreaks of H5N1 avian infection in poultry flocks, including countries which have also reported cases in humans. Travelers to countries in Asia with documented H5N1 outbreaks should avoid poultry farms, contact with animals in live food markets, and any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces or fluids from poultry or other animals. Influenza viruses are destroyed by heat, and as a precaution, consumers should ensure that all foods from poultry, including eggs, have been thoroughly cooked ... http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_26/en/.

WHO: Avian influenza-fact sheet – 5January2004-Avian influenza ("bird flu") and the significance of its transmission to humans - [This excellent article also explains the concepts of antigenic "drift", and antigenic "shift", Ed.] ... http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/.

CDC Influenza Summary Update - Influenza activity remained low during the week of February 1-7, 2004. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) continued to decline, and remained below the national baseline of 2.5% for the fourth consecutive week (1.5%). Mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) has peaked, but remained above the epidemic threshold during week 5 (8.7%). There were no reports of widespread influenza activity from state and territorial epidemiologists during week 5. Four states reported regional activity, 14 states reported local activity, 30 states, New York City, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity, and one state reported no activity. Reports of influenza-associated deaths in children continue to be collected from state health departments. See the map below ... <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>.



<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>

CDC West Nile Virus Home - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

Links to State and Local Government West Nile Virus Web Sites

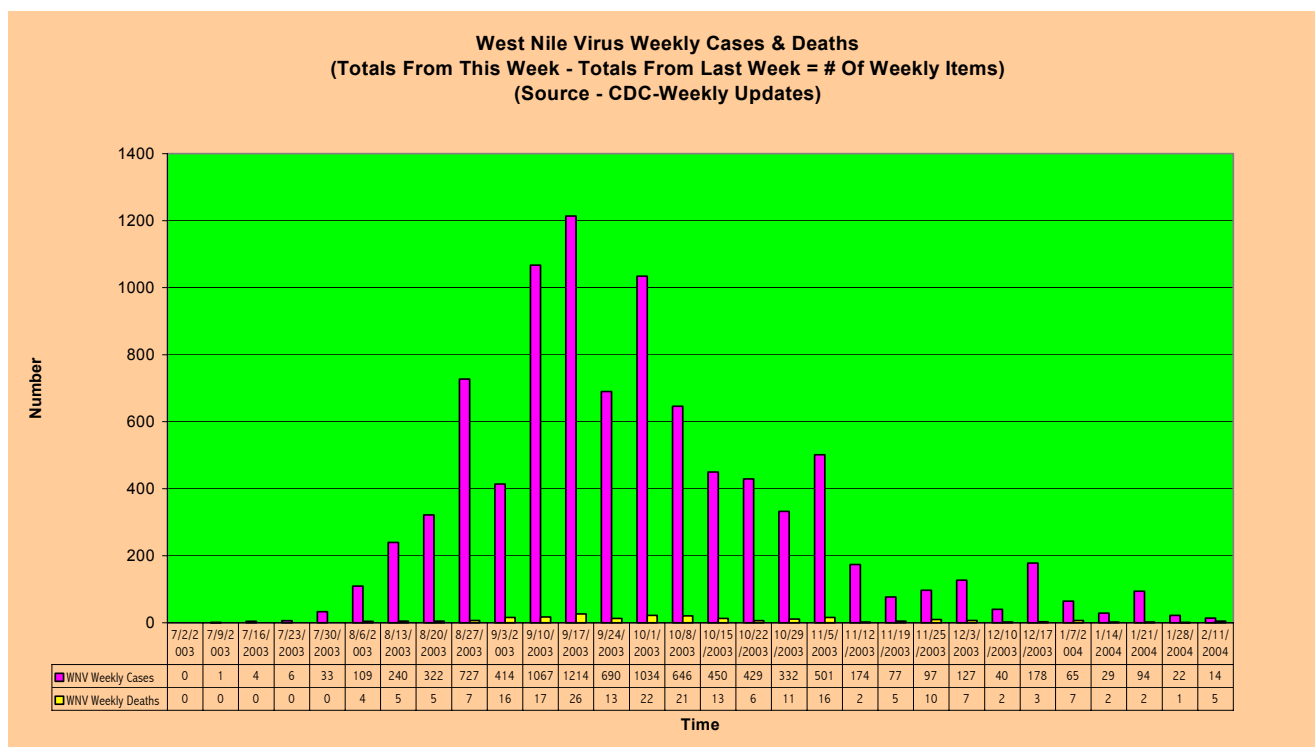
Click on a state to link directly to their West Nile virus Web page.

See list below for additional city-level and main State Health Department Web sites.



West Nile Virus Interactive Map – If you go to this site, each State will be ‘HOT’, and moving your mouse on a State will link you to its Health Department’s West Nile web site and bring up other information. Where the CDC map and case summary is a lagging indicator, this map, linked to each State’s Health Department, provides real-time information for those states which update regularly, such as PA and CO.
http://www.mosquitoczar.com/west_nile_virus.

CDC West Nile Virus Case Count - [Maps](#) reporting WNV activity and [human disease cases](#) reported to CDC were updated on February 11, 2004. The information for the week ending February 11, 2004 is shown in the chart below. Total cases and deaths from 46 states stand at 9136 and 228, respectively.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&controlCaseCount03.htm>



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